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Upper Intermediate Student’s Book

Life

2.7

**N = Newsreader; M = Martha Cash**

**N:** And in China, hundreds of parents of first-year students at the University of Wuhan have been sleeping on the floor of the university’s gym so that they can be near their children in their first anxious days at college. As Martha Cash, our Far East correspondent, reports.

**M:** China’s policy of urging families to have only one child has meant that parents, already ambitious for the success of their children, become even more intensely focussed on helping a single son or daughter to make it in the world. Going to university is of course seen as a necessary first step in this journey, but most Chinese families are not particularly well-off and they often make great sacrifices to support their children. So staying in a local hotel during their children’s first days at college is not really an option. That was how, on a recent visit to Wuhan in the centre of China, we witnessed this extraordinary scene: a mass adult sleep-in on the university gym floor. It seems odd to us in the West to find parents so involved in their children’s education and lives when they are already adults, but as an expression of parental concern, you can’t help but be impressed by it.